

KINDERBOOK

Kan Takahama

With clever, very subtle - even when her words are very direct, Kan Takahama explores subjects as diverse as suicide pacts, mermaids, making a porno film and bar chat with a robust yet delicate grace. Undoubtedly the most talented mangaka to have recently emerged from Japan, Kan Takahama's art and story telling will surprise when least expected.

KINDERBOOK

Kan Takahama



Kan Takama was born in 1977 in Aomori, Japan.

Having completed her studies in contemporary art, she made her debut in manga by participating in a contest organized by the famed underground magazine *Garo* towards the end of the year 2000. Her story, "Women Who Survive" (which is the opening story of this volume), won first prize and was published in the January 2001 edition of the magazine. Her works appeared regularly in *Garo* thru 2001 and 2002 and was collected in an album, "Yellowbacks" published in February 2002 by Seirindo (Japan). After meeting Frédéric Bolet in April 2002, she became part of the "Nouvelle Manga" movement. Together they produced "Mariko Parade" which was published in Japan in January 2003, in France that September and will be released in English, Spanish and other European languages in December.

Following a trip to France for the Festival of Angoulême in January 2003, Kan Takahama published her first story in French, "Bons Baisers d'Angoulême", an entertaining and good-humored account about her visit, in issue n° 2 of *Bang!* magazine.

More recently Kan was invited to contribute to "The Comics Journal" Winter Special and her original strip will appear in the January 2004 release.

<http://www.b3.dion.ne.jp/~morte/index.html>

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[KINDERBOOK]

Kan Takahama



KINDERBOOK

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Good Breeding

Madame Elliot and Me

As we walked through the wood, Madame "Elliot" told me that an adulterous couple met every week in the delivery van that was parked near the path. According to her, the violence with which the van shook during these encounters was proof enough. Because of my poor French the lady, who was clearly well bred, was obliged to explain the 'car sex' to me in exaggerated gestures. She walks in the Bois de Boulogne every day with her pet dog Elliot and sometimes, after making a few purchases, has tea with an old friend. Their conversation is limited to real estate and gossip... Occasionally they talk about the amount of exercise their dogs need. As she hardly ever spoke of her husband, I forgot to ask her real name.



Women Who Survive

Woman falling in love is almost dead.























I'VE BOUGHT
SOME LAND IN
UBAHANDAE

ABOUT
3000
SQ FEET



MAYBE I'LL
EVEN MANAGE
TO TURN MY
BLACK LUNGS
GRAY



I CAN GO
TO THE
SPA EVERY
DAY. ISN'T
THAT LIKE A
DREAM-COME-
TRUE?



NO WAY. I
'M INTENDING TO DO
NOTHING BUT DRAG
AND WAIT FOR
DEATH

DO YOU
PLAN TO START A
NEW BUSINESS
THERE?

線 銀座駅
Ginza Sta.

...WELL
I'M GOING
THIS WAY

I HOPE
I HAVE
ENOUGH LEFT
IN ME TO KEEP
SCRATCHING
A WHILE
LONGER

SO
THE OLD
CAT FINALLY
SHOWS ITS
CLAWS



THINK OF IT
AS A REWARD
FOR ALL YOU'VE
HAD TO PUT UP
WITH.

AS FOR
YOUR NEW
CONTRACT I'LL
HAVE MY SON-
IN-LAW GET
IN TOUGH
WITH YOU

USE THE MONEY
WELL AND DON'T
BE UPSET



YOU WILL
INVITE ME TO
TEA, WON'T YOU,
EVEN IF I JUST
DROP BY?

IF YOU
DON'T MIND I'LL
GO DOWN THERE
ONCE IN A WHILE
MAYBE I CAN CATCH
SOME TENCH





HEH HEH HEH

OF COURSE I
WILL SO LONG AS
YOU COME BEFORE
I DIE. CHEER UP!



AND THEY
DON'T CARE
WHETHER
OR NOT THE
OTHERS
BITE

THE BIG FISH
LAUGH LIKE YOU
WHEN THEY GET
OFF THE HOOK

HEH

HEW



I'M
BACK.



HELLO
YOU'RE EARLY
TODAY.

OH! HI!

SLISH



BUT I'M
HAVING
TROUBLE
CAPTURING THE
ATMOSPHERE.

YEAH,
PRETTY
WELL.

HOW'RE
YOU DOING?
IS IT GOING
ALONG?













No 52 BAD FORTUNE

Illness
Will last a long time
Wait patiently

Lost Property
Will be hard to find

The Awaited-One
Will be long in coming



Money
Adverse

Gambling
If you play for
high stakes,
You will win





SHE HASN'T TOUCHED HER FOOD SINCE YESTERDAY



SHE'S PROBABLY FROWLING AROUND SOMEWHERE...

PUSSY NOT HERE!



IT'S JUST THAT SHE'S SO OLD...

DON'T WORRY CATS ARE LIKE THAT...

SHE'LL BE BACK IN A COUPLE OF DAYS...



COME HERE SACHIRO

WE'LL WAIT IN DADDY'S CAR!

PUSSY
PUSSY



WELL

WAIT FOR ME A SECOND, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!

PUT ME DOWN

WE'LL WAIT FOR YOU IN THE CAR, OK?















MOTHER NO!
SHE'LL GET
CAVITIES!

SASHI
WOULD YOU
LIKE SOME
MORE ICE
CREAM?

ICE
CREAM?



I'LL BE VERY
LATE... YOU GO
AHEAD AND GO
TO BED.

ARE YOU
GOING BACK
TO THE OFFICE
DEAR? WILL
YOU COME
HOME
EARLY?

NO, I'LL
WAIT UP
FOR YOU.



YES,
I DO.

15,000 YEN
DO YOU HAVE
100 YEN
PLEASE?

LET'S
GO!

THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH!



IF YOU'RE
GOING TO THE
OFFICE, TELL
MR. SENGUOHE
I'M VERY SORRY
TO HAVE HINDERED
AWAY HIS VALUED
SUBORDINATE.

I'LL CALL YOU
SHALL WE GET
TOGETHER SOME
TIME NEXT
WEEK?

SURE

HA HA HA!
I WILL.

THANKS
FOR THE
REAL.









HAVE
WEATHERED
BUSY MANY
YEARS



IN THIS
TOUGH CITY
HAVEN'T WE?

























Good breeding

Yuiko and me

Yuiko worked as a graphic designer in the U.S. but, tired of everyday life, she quit her job and went to live in Paris. Once, when she returned to Japan, she came to see me and we went to eat sushi. It was an odd mix, the elegant Yuiko, her Israeli boyfriend, my boss and I. Yuiko has a peculiarly detached way of seeing the world and we spent a lot of time talking about things like “what is love?” and so on. We even talked about lesbianism, though of course nothing happened between us. She gave me some books too. At the time of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center I called her because I remembered she had mentioned something about going back to New York soon, but I wasn’t able to get hold of her because she had moved. She loves comics so maybe she’ll email me if she reads this.



Original Story by Otaegami

http://www.manga-club.com/



Kinderbook: A Picture Story
for Melancholic Girls

"Un livre pour les enfants mélancoliques"

1992.4.6 BA

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SHE GETS MORE BAZING ALL THE TIME IF SHE GOES ON LIKE THAT I'LL BE ABLE TO SHOOT SOME PRETTY HOT STUFF

YEAH YEAH I GOT THE SCENE WHERE THEY'RE JUST PERFECT THE CAMERA YOU SENT ME IS VERY GOOD

I ALSO GOT THE KISSING SCENE AND THE ONE IN WHICH THEY'RE WEARING SWA CLOTHES

HELLO! THAT YOU SASAKI?

CLOP

AHA!

OK AND WHAT'LL WE CALL IT SASAKI?

WHAT? YEAH TELL ME AND I'LL PUT THE TITLE IN THE OPENING CREDITS

HA HA HA! YEAH OF COURSE I SPEND MY NIGHTS WORKING

ISN'T THERE AN EASIER WAY OF EJECTING POLAR?

YEAH I KNOW OF COURSE THERE ISN'T...

PASSION? WHAT PASSION? OH OK I GOT IT! "THE PASSION OF THE HORNY SCHOOLGIRL"

WOULDN'T THAT BE MORE TO THE POINT?

WHAT? OH YES YEAH "PRETTY SCHOOLGIRL"

WHAT ABOUT "HOT SCHOOLGIRL"

WHAT ELSE? HA HA, NO! THAT'S TOO MUCH SASAKI, YOU'RE A FET

WHAT ELSE?

YEAH, RIGHT...





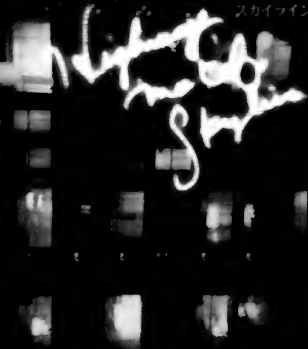
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Highway, Motel, Skyline イ.

[2001 amid a heat wave] モーナル,

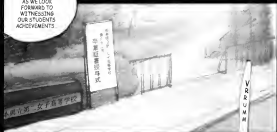
スカイライン





AS YOU
CONTEMPLATE THE
PATHS ALONG WHICH
THE NEW SET OF
CHALLENGES YOU LL FACE
ON FUTURE PURSUITS...

OUR PRIVILEGE
TO CELEBRATE YOUR
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
AS WE LOOK
FORWARD TO
WITNESSING
OUR STUDENTS
ACHIEVEMENTS...



Grh

SET AND
MAINTAIN THE
HIGHEST LEVELS
IN EACH AND
EVERY FIELD OF
ENDAVOR...





YEAH
I KNOW WHAT
YOU MEAN

HESAMOTO
AND I HAVE
A GOOD TIME
WHEN WE'RE
TOGETHER
BUT IT'S NOT
A BATURE
RELATIONSHIP

I FEEL
THERE'S GOTTA
BE SOME GUY
WHO CAN TAKE
CARE OF ME



YOU'RE SO
WICKED!

WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?
YOU'RE A FINE
ONE TO TALK,
DOUBTLE-DEALING
LIKE YOU DO!

HES
I DON'T
FLAY
AROUND!



WHAT THEN?
IS IT BECAUSE
YOU LIKE KANEDA
BETTER?

HAHAH
NO, IT'S NOT
THAT, BUT I'M
AFRAID HIMOKAI
DOESN'T THINK
AHEAD AT
ALL

OOO,
A
MATE!

NOT AT ALL
HE'S NOT THAT
KIND OF GUY.
HE WOULDN'T
DARE.

WHAT ABOUT YOU
AKIO? HOW'S IT
GOING? ISN'T YOUR
BOYFRIEND ASKING
YOU TO STAY?
HE'S ALREADY
WORKING AND

PROBABLY
WANTS TO GET
MARRIED. WHEN YOU
LEAVE IT'S GOING TO
BE HARD TO KEEP UP
THE RELATIONSHIP.
AT THE VERY LEAST, HE
MIGHT WANT TO GET
ENGAGED.



NO, LEAVE
ME ALONE!

I LIKE GUYS
WHO DON'T PAY ME
ANY ATTENTION.
I WANT TO BE
THE ONE WHO
CHOSES...

BESIDES,
I HATE
BEING
HASSLED!

LEZZIES...

YOU
FANTASIZE
TOO MUCH.
YOU'LL NEVER
FIND A GUY
LIKE THAT!



IF WE
GOT MARRIED
HE'D LOCK ME UP AT
HOME AS SOON AS
WE HAD A BABY AND
I'D STOP LIVING.
DON'T YOU SEE? I'D
RATHER WORK,
EARN SOME BEER
AND HAVE A
GOOD TIME.

YOU'RE RIGHT.
OTHERWISE
YOU'D BE A
BORED YOUNG
MOTHER.

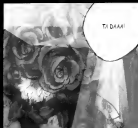
























I WANT YOU
TO SIT BACK AND
ENJOY THE THRILL
OF SPEEDING DOWN
THE HIGHWAY
AT 300 MPH...

TRUST ME
I KNOW THE
ROADS WELL.



BESIDES
I JUST KNOW
THAT TONIGHT
WE'RE GONNA
HAVE...

THE
KYUSHU
HIGHWAY
IS VERY
STRAIGHT

AND
THE CO'S
WILL STOP
YOU. WHY
RISK IT?



A
MEMORABLE
LAST DATE

V
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S



Good breeding

So and me

So, who's from Taiwan and studies in Japan, is a very good cook. The other day he invited me over for some Chinese medicinal soup made from a hen he had slaughtered himself. Back in his country So was an army commander and, the truth is, he is just a primitive Chinese living abroad who once, when there wasn't anything else, heartlessly killed a nursing dog and ate her. He's very handsome (though he drives the shabby car of a non-descript man).

In Japan too, up to my mother's generation, there were people in some regions who were used to killing chickens for dinner. All the same to our generation that is an act of killing a living being, and it is undeniably abhorrent. In any case, in So's cultural sphere, killing chickens is still regarded as something natural and if I look at it from his point of view, maybe it's all right. The truth of the matter is that nowadays the Japanese do not kill animals for food nor do they recite Buddhist sutras nor are they taken aback by vipers...maybe it's time we started to learn the Hannya Shingyô?



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Red Candles Futile Love

紅燭の恋



"Futile Love"
Kan Takeda
2011 Fall

Location
Takeda's Room

Page
"Futile Love" Candle Day
by C. & M. S. S. S.

January
1992 (2011) (2011) (2011) (2011)

<http://www.h3.dion.ne.jp/~moriz>

B A N G

AND THEN
WHAT HAPPENED?
HOW DID THE
MERMAID GET
AWAY?

MOMMY,
GO ON . . .

MOMMY
DID THE
MERMAID HAVE
BLACK HAIR?
LIKE SEAWEED?

AND
WAS IT
LONG? LIKE
YOURS?

YES.
HER HAIR
WAS BLACK
JET BLACK

WELL, YOU SEE
ASHCHETA . . . THE
BOAT THAT
CARRIED THE
MERMAID . . .

WAS SUNK
BY THE STORM.
THE GREEDY SLUGS
WHO HAD SOLD HER
DIED WHEN THE
WHOLE TOWN WAS
DESTROYED BY THE
FLOOD . . .

IF YOU
THINK
ANYONE YOU
WILL COME
TO HARM TOO.
IT'S TERRIBLE
ASHCHETA . . . BUT
YOU WOULDN'T
HARM ANYONE
WOULD YOU?

THEY'RE BEYOND
THE TEMPUZA
NOW. AND WHAT'S
THIS ASCHETA
WHY ARE YOU
BEING CARRIED?
YOU'RE NOT CARRIED
A BABY

THEY'RE
STARTING. HOW'S
IT GOING?
I'LL BE RIGHT
THERE

TODAY IS
SPECIAL

HELLO! GOOD
AFTERNOON . . .
I'M SORRY I
HAD TO PICK UP
MY DAUGHTER UP
THIS MORNING
SO I COULDN'T
COME AND
HELP OUT . . .

DON'T
WORRY
THERE'S LOTS
OF PEOPLE
HELPING
ALREADY

WELL

LONG? YES, MAYBE
EVEN LONGER THAN
MINE. THAT IS
WHY MEN ARE SO
FASCINATED.

FASCINATED?
WHAT'S
THAT?









I DON'T
KNOW WHERE
TO LOOK...



I DON'T

I DON'T

I DON'T

I DON'T



AND HELP
PREPARE FOOD
FOR THE PARTY
ALONG WITH
YOUR WIFE
AND...

THANKS FOR
THE SODA.
WELL, I'VE GOT
TO GO

KNOCK





MAYBE THE HEAT GETS TO HIM? GIVE HIM SOME EEL THAT'LL CURE HIM

HE'S VERY FORGETFUL THESE DAYS. HE HARDLY DOES ANY WORK. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE MATTER IS BUT I DON'T LIKE IT



MAYBE HE'S ALREADY GONE AWAY?

HE HAS TO MAKE HIS BOAT READY. IF HE'S LATE EVERYONE WILL SAY THE SHERAISHI FAMILY DOESN'T PARTICIPATE...

THIS YEAR IT'S HIS TURN TO GO AND MEET THE SPIRITS BOATS

NO KIDDING?



MAYBE COME TO MY HOUSE WITH ME I WANT TO SHOW YOU A DOG

A DOG?



HE'S A RAR, ISN'T HE?

OK

BUT DON'T TELL ANYONE, OK?

BUT YOU'RE LUCKY HE'S ALIVE...



ANYWAY I'M GOING TO PLAY AT MICHIE'S HOUSE

DON'T BE LATE OK?

WE'RE HAVING OUR SECOND CHILD SOON AND I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE HE SHOULD BE WORKING HARD NOW



HE SHOULD HAVE GONE TO BID FAREWELL TO THE DEAD INSTEAD OF LEAVING WITH THEM...

NOBODY THOUGHT HE'D DROWN HIMSELF IN THE SEA

WELL YES, MR. SHARADA WAS ALSO VERY ABSENT-MINDED



GOOD, GIVE MY REGARDS TO MR. KANEHO

THANKS GRANDPA! I'M GOING BACK TO WORK WITH THE OTHERS



WELL, I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR METSUKIDOO

THE SEA HOLDS A FASCINATION, POOR THING, SO YOUNG...



SHE LOOKS LIKE YOUR MOTHER...

IT'S TRUE!

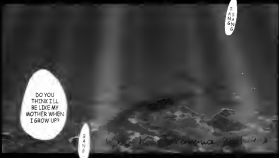
LOOK, MARU THIS STRON...



WELL...

SHE DOES RIGHT?

WELL...



DO YOU THINK I'LL BE LIKE MY MOTHER WHEN I GROW UP?

WELL...

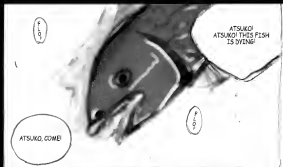


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Five-Legged Shadow







I WON'T
SAY ANY
THING



ATSUKO,
EVEN IF YOU
NOTICE HE'S
SKINNY DON'T
MENTION IT TO
GRANDFATHER



ONIKO'S
GRANDFATHER GOT
WORSE AFTER THE
OPERATION. IT MIGHT
HAVE BEEN BETTER TO
SPARE THEM ALL THAT
DISTRESS

THE DOCTORS HAVE
SEVEN UP HOPE FOR HIM.
HAVEN'T THEY? HE CAN'T
COMPLAIN, HE'S HAD
A LONG LIFE



WE'LL BE
THERE SOON.
BE PATIENT
A LITTLE
WHILE
LONGER!



MOMMY,
I'M THIRSTY

IF YOU
DON'T BEHAVE
YOURSELF I'M
GOING TO STOP THE
CAR AND LEAVE
YOU HERE!















IS GRANDMA
GOING TO DIE
SOON TOO?



WHAT
MAKES YOU
SAY THAT?

OF
COURSE
NOT!

HA, HA, HA!



I'M HAPPY.

TIME FOR
BED, ATSUKI!



HA, HA, HA...

IT'S LATE
YOU CAN
PLAY SOME
MORE
TOMORROW

DO YOU
WANT TO
TAKE YOUR
SNOOPY TO
BED WITH
YOU?

DON'T
YOU WANT
IT..?

TO TELL THE
TRUTH I DON'T
MIND IF I SEE
NOW !



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Minanogawa Blues

Like the Minanogawa that starts its fall at the peak of
Mount Tsukuba my love has swollen on its course and fills
a channel deep and still. -Emperor Yōzei (868-949)



OH, YEAH? OSCAR PETERSON THEN...

THERE'S NO ONE ELSE HERE TODAY SO YOU CAN CHOOSE WHATEVER YOU LIKE

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO LISTEN TO NOW, MR. SCOTNEY?



CHUCK

IT'S ALSO MY BOSS'S FAVORITE SHE LISTENS TO IT A LOT.

THERE'RE OTHER ALBUMS ON CD...

NO I LIKE THAT ONE.

THIS ONE WITH THE COVERS THAT'S LIKE A KIDS PARTY. ♪

YEAH THAT'S HIS BEST ALBUM



OOH... LATELY IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S CHANGED HER MIND...

CHUCK

ANYHOW YOUR BOSS AIN'T INTERESTED IN ME. SHE SAYS SHE'S FED UP WITH MEN

...BUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HER?

CHUCK

AND TONIGHT'S CHRISTMAS EVE

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING OF THE SORT...

YOU LIKE MY BOSS, DON'T YOU? YOU KNEW IT WAS HER FAVORITE. THAT'S WHY YOU ASKED FOR IT NOW THAT SHE'S GUE BACK.



WHAT'S UP WITH HER? I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET HER TO GO OUT WITH ME FOR AGES BUT SHE WON'T ACKNOWLEDGE MY EXISTENCE!

DID SHE HAVE SOMEONE ELSE IN MIND OR WHAT?

HA, HA, HA... BUT WHY? SHE'S BEAUTIFUL NOW... SHE'S NOT SUCH AN OLD SOURPUSS AS SHE WAS

CHUCK

PLUS, AFTER SHE HAD THAT WORM OF THE UTERUS REMOVED IT'S LIKE SHE'S INCESTING

IT'S JUST THAT SHE'S BEEN LIVING ALONE SINCE HER DIVORCE AND THAT WAS SOME TIME AGO. SHE NEVER HAD KIDS SO I GUESS SHE FEELS LONELY...







WAIT A
MINUTE,
LET ME TELL
YOU WHAT
HAPPENED

SO WHAT
DID HE TELL
YOU ABOUT
YOURSELF



I THINK THEY
USED TO TELL
FORTUNES IN
ANCIENT CHINA
BY READING
THE CRACKS OF
TURTLE SHELLS

HMM...



BUT IT MADE
HER A LITTLE
NERVOUS AND
SHE WAS VERY
CAREFUL ON
THE RETURN
FLIGHT

I CAN
JUST SEE
THE LOOK
ON MISS
SACK'S...



OH,
REALLY?

FIRST HE TOLD
HER SHE
HAD A LITTLE
ACCIDENT ON
THE PLANE ON
THE WAY BACK
HOME

OF
COURSE,
SHE DIDN'T
BELIEVE IT



LUCKILY, IT'S
NOT TOO
LATE...

NO!

SHE SLEPT
IN THE AISLE
AND BROKE
ONE OF HER
FINGERS!

JUST
WHEN SHE
THOUGHT
SHE WAS
SAFE

OH,
REALLY?



ANYHOW,
THE TEA
FINISHED
AND THE PLANE
LANDED
WITHOUT
ANY
INCIDENT
BUT...



WHAT DID
HE TELL
YOU? I KNOW
HE SAID YOU'D
BEEN THE
LAST TO TRY ON
SOMETHING!

YEAH,
TELL US,
WHAT DID
HE SAY?

YOU'LL BE
SURPRISED TO
HEAR WHAT HE
TOLD ME!

WAIT!



YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO'S
REALLY
SCARY

IT'S A
BIT SCARY,
ISN'T IT?
DOESN'T IT
GIVE YOU
GOOSE
BUMPS?







I'M
STUNNED!



WHEN
SHE WAS ONLY
20, DIDN'T IT?
HEAVENS!

OOH...
SOO... THIS
IS...

THIS IS
THE SON OF HER
BOYFRIEND, THE ONE
WHO WAS 30 YEARS
OLDER THAN HER...



I'M THE ONE
WHO'S SURPRISED
YOU'RE JUST LIKE
THE PHOTOGRAPH
MY FATHER
LEFT ME

I'M NOT
SURPRISED HE'LL
IN LOVE WITH
YOU !

O
L
D
I
S



HE TOLD
ME HE HAD
A SON MY
AGE...

BUT THE
RESEMBLANCE IS
UNCANNY !

U
M
H
M
M



THEY'RE
BETTER
WITH SALT...

THANKS!

A PHOTO, 9
YEARS
YEAH, IT'S
AROUND HERE
SOMEWHERE



WOULDN'T HAVE
YOU A PHOTO OR
SOMETHING?

AYEH

AYEH

HA HA HA!
STOP IT!

I'M
FLATTERED!

OH,
BUT IT'S
TRUE!



NOW
BOSS! LOOK
HOW POLAR
YOU WERE!
WHAT A
SIN

IT'S
TRUE!

AHA! HERE IT
IS! THE TIME WE
WENT TO MOUNT
TAULWA. LOOK
HOW MUCH ALIKE
THEY ARE!



AND YOU DIVORCED SOON AFTER DIDN'T YOU?

HE'S ASKED...

HE TOOK CARE OF ME FOR 30 YEARS...

LIKE A DAUGHTER UNTIL I MARRIED AT 30...



IF THE WAY HERE'S A MORE RECENT PHOTO-GRAPH...

YOU DON'T SAY!



YOU WERE ON HIS THOUGHTS UP TO THE LAST MOMENT

C H O P

SO HE'S DEAD NOW...



PLOP

HE DIED SUDDENLY.

AND LEFT EVERYTHING TO ME.



I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU HAD LAND.

ONE DAY THE MOUNTAINS OF MUSHROOMS BECAME MOUNTAINS OF DEBT. WE ALMOST WENT BANKRUPT BUT WE MANAGED TO RECOVER... WE WERE FINALLY ABLE TO PAY BACK ALL THE MONEY WE OWED. I I BELLSON YEM BUT THEN

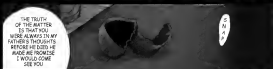
I I BELLSON YEM



SO YOU STILL HAVE SOME LEFT OVER?

WELL HE WAS HAPPY. HE USED WATCHING HIS FAVORITE TV PROGRAM. IT WAS PEACEFUL. I HAD TO SELL

SOME PROPERTY TO PAY THE TAXES BUT I HAVE ENOUGH LEFT TO COME OVER FOR A DRINK ONCE IN A WHILE!



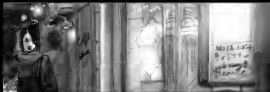


Little reds are looking at you













Good breeding

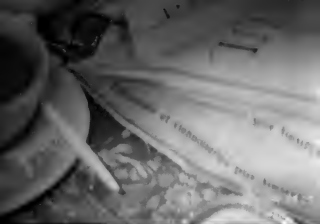
Mr. Jambo and me

Mr. Jambo is Iranian of an American father who worked in construction there. He came to Japan on a work permit and, every month, he sent money back home. As he was industrious, he was held in great esteem by his boss so he earned a fairly good salary. Back then I was a student with no money so he used to invite me out to eat because he felt sorry for me and once, when my shoes were very worn, he bought me a new pair... he was always very kind to me. We would laugh because our relationship ran counter to the usual relations between Japanese and Iranians in Japan. Mr. Jambo used to lament the fact he could never forget a former Japanese girlfriend who had been very kind and loving. The day before he left for his own country he told me he would not be able to come back to Japan after he returned to Iran. He said that, after having had a taste of freedom, it would be tough adjusting to a society with such strict rules. He drove his car along at 75 mph and said, laughing, "It's just for today".



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Over There, Beautiful Binary Suns

CRUNCH

ONE TWO

DIDN'T YOU
SAY WITH THE
RIGHT ONE?

I DO?

NO, YOU'VE GOT TO
START WITH THE
LEFT FOOT

OK, OK,
I SEE... DON'T
LOSE YOUR
TEMPER...

IT'S NOT THE SAME
AT ALL! THIS IS VERY
IMPORTANT!

THE LEFT!
WE'RE NOT
RUNNING
A RACE!

IT
AMOUNTS
TO THE
SAME
THING...

WITH ALL THIS GRAVEL AND IN MY HEELS IT'S VERY TIRING!

PLEASE BE A BIT MORE THOUGHTFUL

WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO ARGUE

OOP

CHEER UP!

PLEASE, MICHIO

I'M SORRY, I GOT CARRIED AWAY

YES!

DON'T BE ANGRY

SINCE NO ONE'S LOOKING I'M GOING TO KISS YOU

DON'T CRUSH IT

LOOK WHAT A SWEET FACE

ENDS



MMMM

YOU
ALWAYS
TREAT ME
LIKE A
CHILD



BUT
YOU'D NEVER
MARRY ME

IS
IT
NOT
A

NO. I
THINK YOU'RE A
WONDERFUL
MATURE
WOMAN.



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
ANYTHING,
YOU LOUSE!

YOU DO
UNDERSTAND
ME, DON'T
YOU?

...ER. I
DON'T KNOW
HOW TO PUT
IT...

I ER IT
JUST CAN'T BE
HELPED...



YOUR WIFE
IS ALL WRINKLED
AND YOU DON'T
FEEL LIKE
MAKING LOVE TO
HER ANY MORE.
THAT'S WHY YOU
NEEDED ANOTHER
WOMAN.
THAT'S ALL!

YOU NEVER
LOVED ME



WHAT'S
WRONG?

WHAAAAA



YOU'RE
JUST
LIKE
ALL THE
REST!

S
W
I
S
H



I'M SORRY
WIFEHO, BUT YOU
MAKE ME HORNY

WHAT?!



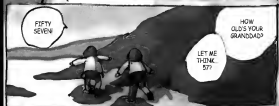












Chapter 1

FOR ALL
ETERNITY...

WHY
NOT?

IF WE
HAD GOTTEN
MARRIED, IT
WOULD NEVER
HAVE LASTED...

I'M
NOT TRYING
TO MAKE
EXCUSES,
BUT...

SATO?

WHO
WAS THAT
OTHER GUY? THE
ONE WHO'S IN
OSAMAS'S...

YEAH,
THAT'S
IT. SATO
OR THAT
OTHER GUY
WIZUGUCHI
FROM
DOCOMO.

YOU'RE
STILL
YOUNG AND
BEAUTIFUL...

I'M
SURE PLENTY
OF YOUNG MEN
WILL WANT
YOU...





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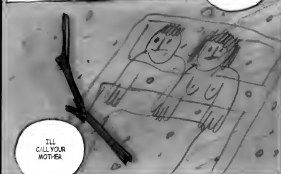




Naomi

NAOMI,
DINNER
TIME







YOU
RASCALS!
YOU'RE NOT
SUPPOSED TO LOOK
AT THINGS LIKE
THAT!



MOMMY, A
LITTLE WHILE
AGO WE SAW
A COUPLE.

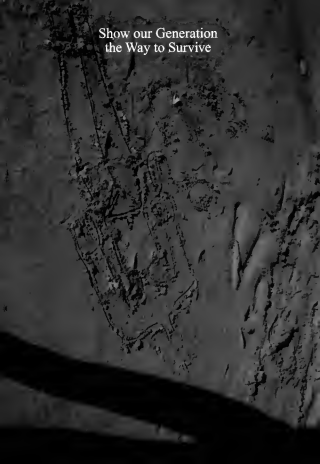
THEY
WERE
KISSING,
RIGHT,
MICHÉ?



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Show our Generation
the Way to Survive









PLUM



WALLY



NOT TOO BAD TODAY

WASN'T IT CROWDED?



LOOK HERE'S YOUR BIRTHDAY CARD! I BROUGHT IT AT THE CÔTE D'AZUR

HELLO, ANAKO!

WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU GUYS DECIDING AGAIN?



IT'S SO HOT! YOU GUYS STUDYING CLIMATE CHANGE MUST BE BUSY GIVING INTERVIEWS THOUGH! I SAW YOUR LAB ON TV THE OTHER DAY

YOU GUYS ARE SO LUCKY...

ALL CONDITIONS ON ALL DAY...



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU CHANGE SO MUCH WHEN YOU TALK TO ANAKO!

I LIKE ANAKO! SHE'S SO UNLUCKY WITH MEN



TODAY I'LL TOLERATE YOUR EXCESS PERSONALITIES

THERE'S NO CALL FOR YOU TO TALK LIKE THAT! SHUT UP AND BE HAPPY!

THANKS, ANAKO! I'M TOUCHED.



HEY!!! DON'T TELL ME! IT'S NOT A STORY!



LEAVE IT THERE

HAVE YOU SEEN THAT ARTICLE?

NOW CAN WE SAY CLIMATE CHANGE IS SHEER NONSENSE?



THE TV PEOPLE CAME AGAIN TODAY... WITH THIS BUSH NON SENSE THEY'RE ALL HYPER

NOT THIS

UNDERLINGS LIKE WE DON'T DO THAT STUFF! BUT THE BOSSES HAVE ARE BUSY



YOU KNOW IT'S PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR A GUY WITH NO \$50,000 TO FIND A GIRL? FOR HOW YOU BE HAPPY IF YOU GAVE UP YOUR EDUCATION FOR A LIFE OF SECURITY?

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY THAT?



HEE HEE HEE. ANYONE WHO DROPS OUT OF ART TO TRY AND EARN MONEY IS IN DEEP TROUBLE



SO HOW'D IT GO? WILL YOU PASS THE FIRST STAGE?

I DON'T KNOW ANYONE NOT

THERE'S NO PLACE ON YOUR RESUME FOR YOUR VITAL STATISTICS















TAKE
CARE



WELL...



THANKS
FOR BRINGING HER
FRIENDS. DO
COME TO SEE
HER EVEN IF
SHE DOESN'T
RECOGNIZE YOU
PLEASE

NO.

I NEVER
DREAMED
SOMETHING LIKE
THIS WOULD
HAPPEN. SHE
WAS ACTING A
BIT ODD BUT...



IF THERE'S
ANYTHING
ELSE, WARD
USE OF IT AS
YOU SEE FIT

DON'T
WORRY

HMM

SORRY
TO HAVE
BOthered YOU.
I DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT TO SAY...



BUT AFTER
THAT SHE
SAID THERE
WAS NOTHING
LEFT FOR HER
TO DO...



WHEN SHE SAW
THOSE IMAGES. UP
UNTIL THEN SHE WAS
ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT
HER WORK.



I DON'T THINK SHE
WAS WELL, EVEN
BEFORE THE ATTACK
ON THE WORLD TRADE
CENTER. IF ONLY
WE'D REALIZED...

YES, BUT
THAT'S WHAT
TRIGGERED IT









"Tell me how to survive!"

Setting: 1004 g.m. - 1005.44g

Guest: Frederic Boeker (<http://www.boeker.net/>)



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Funnyface's Family









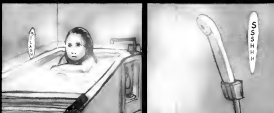










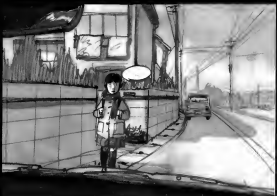














'Funny Face's Family'

by Ken Takahama

2002 Spring

Setting: 1980s

Reference: 'Euphrosyne Kanagawa'



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On Past Love and Drinking in Sips

MY GRANDMOTHER USUALLY
HAS A DRINK ALONE BEFORE
GOING TO BED



SHE ALWAYS DRINKS A 5-OZ CAN,
TRIAL SIZE, AND SHE NIBBLES
AT SOME SARDINES OR TOMO OR
MAYBE A BIT OF CHEESE



SHE SAYS IT HELPS HER FORGET HER
FEAR SHE MIGHT NOT WAKE UP AGAIN
AFTER SHE FALLS ASLEEP



ONCE I WENT WITH MY GRANDMOTHER TO THE MOVIES
IN TOWN TO SEE "THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY"

MY GRANDMOTHER READS A LOT OF
ROMANCE NOVELS. HER BOOKSHELF
IS FULL OF BOOKS WITH TITLES THAT
I THINK ARE POIGNANT.



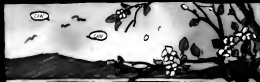
I KNOW SHE ALSO KEEPS A FEW EROTIC
BOOKS HIDDEN BEHIND THOSE



IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THAT ROBERT KINCAID'S BIG
FACE REMINDED HER OF THE CHEERFUL ONE OF MY
GRANDFATHER WHO DIED BEFORE HE WAS 40.



I FELT THE CASTING WAS A BIT OFF BUT I
DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING BECAUSE IT SEEMED
TO ME THAT MY GRANDMOTHER WAS CRYING



IT TAKES A WHILE TO TRANSFORM LOVE INTO SOMETHING SUBLIME



OR THE SHORT TIME WHEN THE
BAMBOO FLOWERS ...



WHEN THE BIRDS RETURN
SO OFTEN



THE HEROINE OF THE NOVEL
MY GRANDMOTHER SAID I
WASN'T OLD ENOUGH TO
READ WAS A POOR WOMAN
WHO WAS TANNED ONLY
FROM THE NECK UP

A GRIEF-STROKEN WOMAN
UNABLE TO FORGET HER HUSBAND
DIED AT SEA WHILST FISHING



THE BOOK TELLS HOW SHE TOOK A
CUSTOMER, FOR JUST ONE NIGHT,
TO MAKE SOME MONEY TO LIVE ON.



AND THAT THE MAN WAS
UNEXPECTEDLY TENDER TO
HER. I THINK IT IS A
HEART-BREAKING STORY.



I FORGET THE TITLE





THE ONLY PERSON WHOSE HOPELESS DESPAIR
I SHARED AS A STUDENT



ON TODAY'S MAIL, TOGETHER WITH A
BILL FOR MY CELL PHONE, I GOT A LETTER
FROM SOMEONE WHICH BROUGHT
BACK NOSTALGIC MEMORIES



I CALLED HIS PARENTS RIGHT AWAY AND TOOK
HIM TO SEE A DOCTOR. HE WAS VERY DEPRESSED



ONCE, WHEN I RETURNED TO THE APARTMENT,
HE WAS ABOUT TO HANG HIMSELF



IN HIS LETTER HE TELLS ME HE'S GETTING MARRIED



*YET AT THE SAME TIME, I SENSE THAT THIS
PERFECT LOVE HAS COME FULL CIRCLE*



*I FEEL THERE IS NO LONGER ANY
LOVE BETWEEN US*



GOOD AFTERNOON,
HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

I WONDER IF MY GRANDMOTHER IS DRINKING TONIGHT TOO



THE END



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